

VI. 31 Dec 79

V E N E Z U

L 1

COLOMBIAN TROOPS CROSS BORDER, RAISE FLAG

PA301848 Paris AFP in Spanish 1822 GMT 30 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 30 Dec (AFP)--Colombian troops penetrated into Venezuelan territory and raised the Colombian flag, the newspaper EL NACIONAL reported here today. The report says the Colombian soldiers penetrated 3 km into Venezuelan territory along the border zone of Dr Jesus Maria Semprun Municipality, Socuavo sector. This led to the mobilization of a Venezuelan batalion and National Guard company.

According to EL NACIONAL the information was supplied by residents of the border town of Casigua El Cubo. They also saw Venezuelan troops moving toward the Colombian border. The newspaper adds that members of the Colombian Army recently crossed into the same Socuavo sector by boat along the Socuavo River and arrested six Venezuelan peasants. According to these troops, the peasants had crossed into Colombian territory.

Finally, the newspaper adds that further incursions into Venezuelan territory took place, and another seven Venezuelan peasants were arrested. Now, Colombian troops have apparently raised the Colombian flag there.

GOVERNMENT RECALLS AMBASSADOR IN CUBA FOR CONSULTATION

PA291343 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2146 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 28 Dec (LATIN)--The Venezuelan Government recalled its ambassador in Havana following a number of incidents involving attempts by Cubans to gain asylum in the embassy, Foreign Minister Jose Zambrano announced here today.

The latest incident took place on 13 December when seven Cubans riding a truck crashed into the residence of Ambassador Cesar Rondon Lovera. Cuban security agents fired at the men, killing one.

"Between 12 May and 13 December this year, there have been four incidents involving attempts to obtain the protection of the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana. Twenty-one Cuban citizens have been involved," said Foreign Minister Zambrano. "This excludes the period between 15 November 1977 and the date in which the present constitutional term began (12 March 1979), during which there were other similar incidents," he added.

The Venezuelan protests were answered by the Cuban Foreign Ministry and "this answer contains elements requiring a detailed analysis and consultations with the Venezuelan ambassador to Cuba," Zambrano pointed out.

In defending the right to asylum as a Venezuelan tradition, the foreign minister said, "In order to make it possible to exercise this responsibility normally, access to the embassy must be normal and free, not obstructed by obvious and exaggerated security measures." He added that "in the specific case of our embassy in Havana, the number, arms and behavior of the security personnel assigned to protect the embassy are out of proportion when compared with other diplomatic missions in Havana and, naturally, with the Cuban Embassy in Caracas."

The minister said if the security rules force the applicants for asylum to violate the security measures established by the Cuban Government, "it places the ambassador in a position that makes it difficult for him to persuade them, should it be necessary, to abandon the mission."